
HOUSE BILL 1599

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Simpson, Linville, Cooper, Wood and Keiser

Read first time 01/30/2001. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

1 AN ACT Relating to landscape irrigation water conservation;
2 amending RCW 19.27.170; and declaring an emergency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.27.170 and 1991 c 347 s 16 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The state building code council shall adopt rules under chapter
7 34.05 RCW that implement and incorporate the water conservation
8 performance standards in subsections (4) and (5) of this section.
9 These standards shall apply to all new construction and all remodeling
10 involving replacement of plumbing fixtures in all residential, hotel,
11 motel, school, industrial, commercial use, or other occupancies
12 determined by the council to use significant quantities of water.

13 (2) The legislature recognizes that a phasing-in approach to these
14 new standards is appropriate. Therefore, standards in subsection (4)
15 of this section shall take effect on July 1, 1990. The standards in
16 subsection (5) of this section shall take effect July 1, 1993.

17 (3) No individual, public or private corporation, firm, political
18 subdivision, government agency, or other legal entity may, for purposes
19 of use in this state, distribute, sell, offer for sale, import,

1 install, or approve for installation any plumbing fixtures unless the
2 fixtures meet the standards as provided for in this section.

3 (4) Standards for water use efficiency effective July 1, 1990.

4 (a) Standards for waterclosets. The guideline for maximum water
5 use allowed in gallons per flush (gpf) for any of the following
6 waterclosets is the following:

7 Tank-type toilets 3.5 gpf.

8 Flushometer-valve toilets 3.5 gpf.

9 Flushometer-tank toilets 3.5 gpf.

10 Electromechanical hydraulic toilets 3.5 gpf.

11 (b) Standard for urinals. The guideline for maximum water use
12 allowed for any urinal is 3.0 gallons per flush.

13 (c) Standard for showerheads. The guideline for maximum water use
14 allowed for any showerhead is 3.0 gallons per minute.

15 (d) Standard for faucets. The guideline for maximum water use
16 allowed in gallons per minute (gpm) for any of the following faucets
17 and replacement aerators is the following:

18 Bathroom faucets 3.0 gpm.

19 Lavatory faucets 3.0 gpm.

20 Kitchen faucets 3.0 gpm.

21 Replacement aerators 3.0 gpm.

22 (e) Except where designed and installed for use by the physically
23 handicapped, lavatory faucets located in restrooms intended for use by
24 the general public must be equipped with a metering valve designed to
25 close by spring or water pressure when left unattended (self-closing).

26 (f) No urinal or watercloset that operates on a continuous flow or
27 continuous flush basis shall be permitted.

28 (5) Standards for water use efficiency effective July 1, 1993.

29 (a) Standards for waterclosets. The guideline for maximum water
30 use allowed in gallons per flush (gpf) for any of the following
31 waterclosets is the following:

32 Tank-type toilets 1.6 gpf.

33 Flushometer-tank toilets 1.6 gpf.

34 Electromechanical hydraulic toilets 1.6 gpf.

35 (b) Standards for urinals. The guideline for maximum water use
36 allowed for any urinal is 1.0 gallons per flush.

37 (c) Standards for showerheads. The guideline for maximum water use
38 allowed for any showerhead is 2.5 gallons per minute.

1 (d) Standards for faucets. The guideline for maximum water use
2 allowed in gallons per minute for any of the following faucets and
3 replacement aerators is the following:

- 4 Bathroom faucets 2.5 gpm.
- 5 Lavatory faucets 2.5 gpm.
- 6 Kitchen faucets 2.5 gpm.
- 7 Replacement aerators 2.5 gpm.

8 (e) Except where designed and installed for use by the physically
9 handicapped, lavatory faucets located in restrooms intended for use by
10 the general public must be equipped with a metering valve designed to
11 close by water pressure when unattended (self-closing).

12 (f) No urinal or watercloset that operates on a continuous flow or
13 continuous basis shall be permitted.

14 (6) The building code council shall establish methods and
15 procedures for testing and identifying fixtures that meet the standards
16 established in subsection (5) of this section. The council shall use
17 the testing standards designated as American national standards,
18 written under American national standards institute procedures or other
19 widely recognized national testing standards. The council shall either
20 review test results from independent testing laboratories that are
21 submitted by manufacturers of plumbing fixtures or accept data
22 submitted to and evaluated by the international association of plumbing
23 and mechanical officials. The council shall publish and widely
24 distribute a current list of fixtures that meet the standards
25 established in subsection (5) of this section.

26 (7) The building code council shall adopt rules for marking and
27 labeling fixtures meeting the standards established in subsection (5)
28 of this section.

29 (8) This section shall not apply to fixtures installed before July
30 28, 1991, that are removed and relocated to another room or area of the
31 same building after July 28, 1991, nor shall it apply to fixtures, as
32 determined by the council, that in order to perform a specialized
33 function, cannot meet the standards specified in this section.

34 (9) The water conservation performance standards shall supersede
35 all local government codes. After July 1, 1990, cities, towns, and
36 counties shall not amend the code revisions and standards established
37 under subsection (4) or (5) of this section.

38 (10) By August 1, 2001, the state building code council shall adopt
39 emergency rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that implement and incorporate

1 the water conservation standard for automatically operated landscape
2 irrigation systems provided by subsection (11) of this section and
3 thereafter shall adopt permanent rules implementing and incorporating
4 the standard.

5 (11) After the effective date of rules adopted under subsection
6 (10) of this section, no person may install an automatic landscape
7 irrigation system for a residential, hotel, motel, school,
8 governmental, industrial, or commercial facility or replace more than
9 fifty percent of such an existing system or expand by more than fifty
10 percent such an existing system without installing a rain sensor device
11 that prohibits irrigation by the system during the time that the rain
12 sensor indicates that adequate moisture is available to the plants
13 being irrigated. The council shall determine how adequate moisture is
14 to be measured under this subsection. Landscape irrigation systems do
15 not include irrigation systems installed for the commercial production
16 of agricultural crops nor irrigation systems installed for agricultural
17 or silvicultural research plots of state institutions of higher
18 education.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act is necessary for the immediate
20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
21 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
22 immediately.

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